Telephone service in Gujarat

1849. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SING: Will the Minister of COM-MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone services which are being provided in Anand and Vallabha Vi-dyanagar in Kaira District (Gujarat) are very much in a bad shape be-cause these telephone exchanges are manually operated.

(b) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Telephone Subscribers' Association, Anand in the matter and also letters from Members of Parliament to take immediate measures to replace these exchanges by electronic ones; r.nd

(c). if so, what action Government have taken thereon and by when these telephone exchanges are likely to be replaced by electronic ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Due to the limitations of manual exchanges the services are not to the satisfaction of the subscribers.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints from subscribers association of Anand and Vallabh Vidyanager have been received. Also there is reqviest for replacement of existing manual-exchange by automatic exchange.

(c) 4000 lines and 1500 lines ICP type Crossbar exchanges will be installed at Anand and Vallabh Vidya-nagar respectively. Equipment for both these exchanges are received. Installation work at Anand is being taken up shortly. Installation of Vallabh Vidyanagar will be taken up on completion of exchange building.

There is no scheme at present for installation of electronic exchanges in these places.

Shortage of Industrial alcohol in West Bengal

1850. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will tht Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased

$_0$ state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the West Bengal Government requesting for intervention so that Uttar Pradesh Government does not increase excise duty on spirit heavily;

(b) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of spirit faced by West Bengal industries; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMI CALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Recently telex mess-5 have been received from the West Eengal Government conveying their difficulties in the lifting of al-cohol due to a high rate of export pass fee levied in U.P. Government has already requested U.P. Government to reduce the export pass fee on rectified spirit for indu'ftrial use.

(b) and (c) Duty Free import of denatured alcohol is being permitted since February, 1985 in view of insu-ficient indigenous availabilty. Industrial Units in West Bengal have been granted permissions for duty-free import of 827 lakh litres of denatured alcohol. Allocations have been made for supplies of both denatured end recti, fled spirit from U.P. and Maharashtra.

Kamal refinery

1851. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be I to state;

(a) what are the names of the private companies which have applied for selection as co-promoter of Kamal refinery;